

DEMOCRATS FIGHT TO END SUBSIDIES FOR BIG OIL AND INSTEAD SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House eliminated wasteful and unnecessary taxpayer subsidies to some of the largest multinational oil companies and instead invested this money in subsidies for regular individuals and businesses who are investing in clean energy. This legislation will not only help ease the pain at the pump for many Americans, but it will also help us get us on the road toward energy independence.

This bill comes shortly after the big five oil companies reported their latest record profits. Earlier this month, for example, ExxonMobil reported earnings of \$40.6 billion in 2007, the largest corporate profit in American history.

Now, why should the big oil companies receive billions of dollars in government welfare? Well, they shouldn't. It's simply a waste of taxpayer dollars at the expense of our very necessary drive towards energy independence.

Mr. Speaker, the House has acted on legislation that will lower energy costs, improve national security by making us more energy independent and ending wasteful taxpayer subsidies for companies that clearly do not need them.

CONGRESS CHOSE POORLY

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, if you tax something, you get less of it. If you subsidize it, you get more of it. So in this day of homegrown energy depletion, Congress made the absurd choice of putting more taxes on American oil companies and, instead, chose to subsidize the special interest groups of unproven, undeveloped, and even non-existent sources of energy.

More taxes means the price of crude oil will rise, not diminish; thus, gasoline prices will rise. This tax will be passed on to us, the consumer. Taxes are always passed on to the consumer.

The tax will not encourage, but lessen, domestic oil production. The tax will encourage oil companies to go to some other country to drill for oil and encourage American refineries to move offshore to areas not hostile.

The tax will make us more dependent on Third World countries like Dictator Chavez for oil.

Congress should lower taxes on U.S. oil companies to encourage domestic production.

So Congress had the choice to encourage domestic oil production by opening up places to drill like ANWR and off the coast, or to tax the black gold and lifeblood of our energy—crude oil. Congress chose poorly.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING BRUCE BEYER

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Bruce Beyer, a remarkable constituent of mine from Davenport, Iowa, who was recently awarded the Army's Outstanding Individual with Disability Award. I'm proud that Bruce was one of 16 employees honored at the DOD Disability Awards ceremony in December for his contributions to the Army Sustainment Command at Rock Island Arsenal.

Bruce has been in a wheelchair since a bicycle accident in 1982 left him a quadriplegic without the use of his arms. According to his boss, Bruce Angus, who nominated him, Bruce is an inspiration to everyone around him and exemplifies the tenet that the only true disability in life is a bad attitude.

Bruce is active in raising awareness about people with disabilities by training managers through the arsenal's Windmill Program, by serving as a counselor in the Rock Island-Milan School District, and by conducting seminars in assistive technology and advocacy for disabled individuals.

Bruce is a model of perseverance and a source of pride for the First District of Iowa, and I join his family, friends, colleagues and community in congratulating him on receiving this honor, and I'm thanking and commending him for his incredible contributions to the arsenal and the Quad Cities community.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS ON RECEIVING OFFERS TO U.S. SERVICE ACADEMIES

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, this year I had the opportunity to nominate several outstanding high school students in the Eighth District for our Service Academies. Five of these students won nominations.

Ms. Morgan Grohol, Central Cabarrus, varsity athletics, National Honor Society, Beta Club, will attend the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Milton Cantos, Concord High School, U.S. Naval Academy, Academic Honors Club, Key Club, varsity soccer.

Mr. Gabriel Whaley lives in Cabarrus County and attends the North Carolina School of Math and Science, National Honor Society, Academics Honor Club, varsity soccer. He will attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Mr. Andrew Chinlund graduated from Jack Britt High in Cumberland County. National Honor Society, Junior ROTC. He will attend the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Finally, Mr. Derek Graves is a senior at Hoke High School. Student Council, Academic Honors, cross-country. He will attend the U.S. Naval Academy.

These are five hardworking young people. I'd like to commend them for their extraordinary work and dedication and service to their country, and I wish these five students the best of luck in their future. I thank them for choosing to serve their country.

ON FISA, PRESIDENT AND REPUBLICANS PLAY POLITICS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, President Bush is out of new ideas. Instead, all he has left is blatant fear-mongering, a strategy that his administration has elevated to an art form.

This time, it's the expiration of his Protect America Act that has the President warning of dire consequences, even though his own administration admits that our intelligence community continues to have every tool it needs. Fortunately, the American people are not buying into the administration's latest scare tactics.

It's pretty difficult for the President to now decry the act's expiration when he threatened to veto a 21-day extension earlier this month. If the law was so critical to national security, you would think that the President and congressional Republicans would have done everything in their power to ensure that it didn't expire.

If Washington Republicans were seriously concerned about the future of the FISA program, you would think they would want a seat at the table as important negotiations continue. Instead, both the administration and Republican leaders have refused to negotiate.

Mr. Speaker, no wonder the scare tactics aren't working.

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SUPPORT PROTECT AMERICA ACT

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when I go home and I talk to my constituents, they understand and appreciate that it is the primary responsibility of Congress to protect our Nation. All Americans believe we should be able to determine what terrorists are saying to terrorists overseas. Playing politics with our Nation's intelligence capabilities only serves to harm our national security. And despite proof of a bipartisan majority of support in the Senate which passed the FISA bill 68-29, House Democrat leadership allowed these protections to expire without a vote. To expire without a vote. Astounding, Mr. Speaker.

We're now 13 days into a unilateral disarmament on the part of our Nation.